

Wayne County. But the forest along the floodplain provides the hardwoods such as Cypress and Gum trees.

There are many places along the Neuse and Little Rivers suitable for wildlife refuges. Small game, such as squirrel and rabbit, is plentiful throughout the county. Game fish and game birds are also numerous. In order to make the best possible use of the conservation areas, they must be left in their natural state.

The Land Potential Study for Wayne County pointed out areas in the county that were well suited for conservation to be used as hunting and fishing preserves, historical sites and recreation areas. Such areas would serve the entire county. Most of these sites were outside of the proposed urban corridor and located on land that is not suited for intensive urban development. The development of these areas would be both private and public.

Agriculture and Rural Residential

Agriculture is expected to continue as the dominant economic activity in Wayne County through 1986. Therefore, the use of the majority of the land in the county will be for agricultural purposes. The number of farm families is decreasing while the size of farms is increasing. This is possible through mechanization of farming techniques. The number of acres used for agriculture is expected to increase slightly. Livestock production is expected to increase sharply, as is the production of truck crops. Some of the traditional crops, such as tobacco and cotton, are expected to decrease slightly.

The scattering of houses throughout the rural areas is expected to continue, but many of the occupants will not depend on agriculture for their livelihood. These people will be commuters to the urban areas or to industrial sites where they will earn their living. This type of residential development will take place on large lots and there will be few large concentrations in any area. Many of these people will be former farmers or sons and daughters who are accustomed to living in the rural areas, but are not needed full-time on the farms.